

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 952

CONFIDENTIAL MOSCOW 7861

FOR: EUR/SOV AND H

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CVIS, UR, OREP, CGEN (EILBERG, JOSHUA)
SUBJ: CODEL EILBERG EXIT VISA LISTS

REF: MOSCOW 7701

1. IN RESPONSE TO EMBASSY REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION FROM ALL-UNION OVIR RE CODEL EILBERG LISTS OF EXIT PERMISSION APPLICANTS (REFTEL), JUNIOR INTERIOR MINISTRY OFFICIAL K.V. NERSESYAN TELEPHONED CONSOFF AFTERNOON JUNE 6 TO ADVISE THAT "ANSWERS WOULD BE GIVEN DIRECTLY TO PERSONS ON LIST, AS WAS UNDERSTOOD" DURING CODEL MEETING WITH OVIR OFFICIALS. THUS, OVIR IS REFUSING TO PROVIDE INFO ON CASES TO EMBASSY FOR TRANSMITTAL TO CODEL.

2. CONSOFF (WHO WAS PRESENT DURING MEETING) REMINDED NERSESYAN THAT CODEL HAD BEEN TOLD THEY WOULD RECEIVE DIRECT REPLIES FROM OVIR RE CASES. NERSESYAN ALLEGED THIS AND EVIDENTLY BEEN A MISUNDERSTANDING, SINCE OVIR OFFICIALS HAD AGREED ONLY TO "GIVE THE ANSWERS TO THE PEOPLE ON THE LISTS THEMSELVES."

3. ANTICIPATING CODEL MEMBERS WILL REACT TO OVIR REBUFF WITH REQUEST FOR FURTHER EMBASSY EFFORTS TO ELICIT REPLIES RE CASES, CONSOFF HAS REQUESTED APPOINTMENT WITH MFA CONSULAR ADMINISTRATION FOR EARLY NEXT WEEK TO DISCUSS MATTER. DEPT. MAY WISH
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ADVISE CODEL THAT MFA IS CHANNEL THROUGH WHICH EMBASSY

TRADITIONALLY FORWARDS EXIT VISA REPRESENTATIONS (INCLUDING REPRESENTATION LIST) TO SOVIET AUTHORITIES, AND THAT MFA IS ONLY SOVIET ORGAN WHICH HAS REPLIED IN ANY FORM TO EMBASSY REPRESENTATIONS. EMBASSY THEREFORE BELIEVES FURTHER APPROACHES TO OVIR RE LISTS WOULD BE UNLIKELY TO PRODUCE DESIRED RESULTS.

5. FYI: WHILE OVIR OFFICIALS CLEARLY STATED TO CODEL AT TIME OF MEETING THAT LISTS WOULD BE "FORWARDED TO COMPETENT AUTHORITIES" AND REPLIES PROVIDED, THEY DID NOT AGREE TO TIME LIMIT, AND MEANS FOR PROVIDING REPLIES WERE NOT DISCUSSED. CONGRESSMAN DODD, FOR EXAMPLE, SAID HE DESIRED RETURN TO OVIR FOR REPLIES IN TWO DAYS' TIME, BUT HE RECEIVED NO CLEAR ASSURANCE HIS DEADLINE WOULD BE MET AND DID NOT CALL SUBSEQUENTLY AT OVIR. CONSOFF'S REQUEST TO OVIR OFFICIALS DELIVERED AS CODEL WAS LEAVING MEETING THAT TIME LIMIT BE SET WAS REJECTED, BUT OFFICIALS DID REPEAT SEVERAL TIMES THAT REPLIES WOULD BE FORTHCOMING.
STOESSEL

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